

The REFERT

VOL. 1.

KEYSER, W. VA., DECEMBER 20, 1905.

No. 2

Christmas Greeting.

Some one has said, that the heaviest darkness just precedes the dawn. So it is with us at the "Prep."

Just now our minds are encumbered with the long and rigid examinations, which our teachers know so well how to give. What a relief it will be afterwards to cast aside our books and with them, all the trouble and worry attendant to school life, and join in the Christmas cheer and spend a period of unalloyed happiness with our friends and home-folks. The thoughts of home will instigate us to doing our best so that we may bear home with us an excellent report of work for the past term. Those students who have not had an opportunity to visit their homes during the entire school-term, will return to their friends and relatives; and the short vacation will doubtless be filled with many pleasant meetings and happy incidents.

The "Refert" extends to the students and friends its most hearty wishes and greetings for the Christmas tide. May you all add to your lives during these two weeks of freedom a most brilliant chapter. Be merry with your friends around the Yule-log; enter with vim and fervor into the carols to our Child King; make Christmas a time for cheering and helping mankind. For what is Christmas but the great anniversary of the Gift of gifts? It is the day of days to the whole world. All sorrows and troubles are forgotten for one day at least. We are overjoyed by the pleasant surprises from our friends and relatives.

When the time shall come for us to enter school again, may we all return with a feeling of renewed energies and a firm determination to do more and better work than ever before. And to so live and act that when the Christmas holidays of another year arrive, we may be able to lay aside the responsibilities of our work for the time being and experience that feeling of happiness and contentment that comes only to those who have done their duty.

At the time of parting we present to you the "Refert" increased from four to six pages and filled with the results of our best efforts. Take it home to your friends. Let them read it and then present them with a subscription to the "Refert" as a Christmas gift.

Again we extend to you our best wishes for a pleasant vacation and unite in the joyful cry—"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

In the "Wee Sma" Hours of Xmas Morn

Hello, Old Santy! through you're work?
Come on, let's have some fun.
Well, how'd you get along to-night?
I bet you're glad you're done.

Let's walk 'round town and have a lark
While honest folks are all a-bed.
Perhaps we'll meet some other "Preps"—
Oh, here's your sleigh; let's ride instead,

Jump in, old man, and cover up;
I'll drive, you, never mind.
Git up, old Blitzen, that's the stuff,
And leave the earth behind!

Hurrah for Christmas, O my stars!
Say, Captain, ain't this fine?
I've never had such fun before
In all this life O' mine.

And here we are on old "Prep" hill.
Gee, there the boys all are.
Hey, fellows, hitch your old bob-sled
Behind my Christmas car!

Now, Blitzen, go for all you're worth,
Hold tight, old man; don't fear.
We'll have more fun than a little bit
With this old sleigh and deer.

Away we go right through the town,
Wake up, you folks in bed!
We're "Preps" and Santy's jolliest friends.
Come on, we'll raise the dead.

And now, we'd better stop, I guess;
It's getting almost day;
Three cheers for Santy and the "Prep,"
Thanks, Santy, for your sleigh.

HANS NARR.

Miss Anna Dalgard, one of our last year's students, passed through Keyser on her way to Cumberland, Monday, Nov. 27th. She had a little chat with some of her old friends at the station.

One of "ye editors" chaperoned two young ladies of the school, Monday, Nov. 27th, to the new pottery building to see the "dead man." After a good walk, jumping a ditch and climbing a fence, the party found three old bones and came home.

Two of a kind—Warner C. and Lola S.

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T. W. HAUGHT, Keyser, W. Va.

The REFERT

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The Literary Societies of the Keyser Preparatory School

PRESS OF THE MOUNTAIN ECHO, KEYSER, W. VA.

Issued Third Wednesday in each School Month

Literary Editors—Chas. Ritchie, Fred Koelz
Business Managers—Joe Grubb, Homer Hott

SUBSCRIPTION, 25 CENTS A SCHOOL YEAR

Rules for the Poem.

Zeke shall never graduate, but will continually "flunk" and always remain a "greenhorn." He may often fall in love, but is often fated to meet disappointments.

He may often come near being expelled from school, but by some mysterious intervention of Providence he is always to remain.

Zeke must never become old, but must always remain under twenty-five years of age.

The poem shall be written in Heroic Blank Verse.

We should like the students to contribute parts to this poem. We mean to make it a never-ending poem. Carefully watch the rules for writing.

The Zekiad.

Oh Heavenly muse, upon thy rocky throne,
Aloft upon the rugged "Queen's Point" doth dwell.

Environed by the wood and sky and vale
And "Old Potomac" flowing far below.
Where years ago, in these wild haunts the brave,
And his companions fought in bloody strife.

Where dusky warrior wooed his dusky bride,
Where wild deer roamed beneath the sylvan shade.
The pale face once upon his faithful steed,

Was chased by warriors bent on fierce revenge.
Out to the point he rode with utmost speed,

But could not check in time his hurried flight,
And, from the dizzy height, "Sir Queen" and steed
Dashed to the foaming torrent far beneath.

And hence the name of thy abode, "Queen's Point,"
O muse, inspire us with thy noblest thoughts,
Shed over us thy benedictions rare,

That we may tell in fitting words the tale
Concerning Zeke, his life, his joys and woes.

Zeke was a country boy of odd aspect,
But good at heart and frank in all his ways.

To clothe his feet a pair of number tens
Were necessary—when he wore such things.

But usually, when roaming o'er the farm,
His feet were bare and by the sun tann'd brown.

A pair of blue jeans overalls; held up
By one twine-string, reached just below his knees
And offered cov'ring to his lanky legs
That when he walked came near to tangling up.
Near neighbors to his knees where both his hands,
Suspended by two long and bony arms.
A bullet head set on his spindle neck,
Revolved as if 'twere on a pivot placed.
Two bead-like eyes pierced forth from orbits deep
On either side of his long, peaked nose.
Just like two wary sentinels alert
On guard around a tower lone and tall.
(To be continued)

Want Section

Wanted—The minute-book of the Reynolds Literary Society.—Secretary.

Wanted—Some one who knows the "Lord's Prayer" and the Benediction to lead Y. W. C. A.

Wanted—Miss Guthrie to play a march for the students to march out of chapel.

Wanted—A demeritless bulletin-board. Clothes lockers in the dressing rooms of the Gym.

Wanted—The Profs. to stay at home at night.

Wanted—A Webster's Dictionary in the Library.—Students.

Wanted—A class meeting and "something doing."—Junior Class.

Lost—A Basket-ball game, Saturday, Dec. 9. Finder will please return same to girl's team.

QUEEN ESTHER.

(A Character Sketch.)

Queen Esther is said to have been the most daring woman in all history. Her act in going before King Ahasuerus in his inner court without being called by him, is regarded as more daring than the work of Joan of Arc. Surely there is not a nobler woman in the world's history than was Queen Esther, the Jewess.

I have never seen a description or real picture of Queen Esther, but I imagine her as being a tall, stately brunette, with the dark, or rather, black hair and eyes characteristic of the Jew.

Upon looking into the character of Queen Esther, her bold and daring spirit is first noticed. When, with the immemorial expression, "If I perish, I perish," she marched into the presence of King Ahasuerus, she had resolution enough and determination enough to defy an army of kings. Following up that same thread of the story, we see that she was cunning, or rather, she was skillful, in accomplishing her ends. After Ahasuerus had extended his golden scepter, assuring her of his protection (and when he had asked her request), she, wisely, did not at once extend her petition for her life and that of her people; but she merely invited the King and Haman to a banquet that day. Then, when at the banquet the King asked for her request, still she withheld her chief purpose, and instead,

(Continued on page five)

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(Continued from page four)

asked Ahasuerus and Haman to another banquet on the following day. At the second banquet, when the King asked the same thing of her, she, thinking she had gained full favor in his sight, replied: "If I have found favor in thy sight, O King, and if it please the King, let my life be given at my petition, and my people at my request."

The next trait of character found in Esther is that one despicable quality by which the Jew is marked—Revenge. This is particularly shown in her decree concerning the ten sons of Haman.

Not satisfied that the ten sons were killed, when King Ahasuerus asked her further petition, she said, "Let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows." This showed her contempt for Haman and all pertaining to him and also her desire for revenge.

But this bad quality is balanced by her good qualities. First to be noticed is her loyalty to her people. She did all in her power for them. Next was her obedience. When Mordecai, her cousin and foster-father, took her to the palace of Ahasuerus in answer to his request for all the fair virgins to be brought to him from whom he might select a wife, he ordered her not to disclose her nationality to the King. This she faithfully obeyed until she went before the King to plead for herself and her people. Last, but in nowise the least, was her reciprocation to Mordecai for all he had done for her. In all her pomp and glory as Queen she did not forget Mordecai, who constantly sat outside the King's gate and asked after her welfare. It was at his request and pleading that she risked her life before the King; and it was partly through her influence that Mordecai was set over the house of Haman, next in rank to the King. "DUTCHY"

LOCALS.

Prof. Sanders (in chemistry) Mr. P-tt-rff, when wood decays in the woods what is formed?"
P-tt-rff—"Little fine wood."

About all the "Prep" students spent Thanksgiving holiday at home. Several left Wednesday morning. All report a pleasant vacation.

Quite a crowd of our boys went to Cumberland Saturday, Nov. 25th, with the football team. Although beaten, they did not fall in spirits, but startled Main street with their yells when they came home.

Arnold and Koelz, playwrights. Dramas furnished on short notice.

Subscribe for the "Refert."

There is a great demand for test-tubes and wash bottles in chemistry. They break 'em right along.

See Prof. Anderson do the bear-dance to the music of the pinola,

Mr. Pinkney Hamstead spent a lonely Thanksgiving in his room with a case of mumps.

Patronize our advertizers; they have helped you.

Two of our girls, Misses Edna Hamstead and Helen Babb, were bartered off at the Maysville Old Maid Sale. Helen declares she brought ten cents more than Edna. One of Helen's kodak pictures shows that she was very suitable merchandise for the sale.

Mrs. Menefee's mother was taken ill Friday morning, Dec. 8th.

The two delegates to the Y. W. C. A. Convention delayed No 55. a quarter of an hour while the baggage agent loaded their baggage into the car. And still Hattie wondered if she could get along those three days with the "few" clothes she was taking.

Herbert White has moved his room and is with Joe Grubb for the rest of the term.

Homer Hott's parents have moved to Keyser and are living on the corner of Main and Centre streets.

Prof. Haught heard Prof. Sanders' Latin classes during the illness of the latter. He also held his own English classes in the Library at Professor Sanders' Library period.

Mr. Leslie Kilroy, one of last year's graduates in stenography, is back at his work in the People's Bank, after a severe attack of typhoid fever at his home in Elk Garden.

It was in Latin 4. This was the passage: "Ex-hominum millibus L X vix, etc.

Helen (translating)—"From sixty thousand men—that's as far as I got, Prof."

Prof. Sanders—"Vix is a number, Miss Babb. Don't you know your Roman numerals?"

Helen—"Well, hardly."

The Reynolds and Davis Literary Societies rendered a joint program Friday night, Dec. 8th. The meeting was held for the purpose of hanging the portraits of Judge Reynolds and Congressman Davis, which pictures were presented last spring by the two gentlemen to their respective societies. The following program was rendered:

Declamation—A selection from "Evangeline"—Nell Johnson.

Declamation—"Afterwhiles."—Laura Lauck.

Essay—"How Far?"—Edna Hamstead.

Declamation—"Der Zauberlehrling."—Fred R. Koelz.

Reading—"A Language that Needs Rest."—Helen Babb.

Piano Duet—"Il Trovatore."—Nell Johnson and Fred Koeltz.

Declamation—"Jersey Folks."—May Winning.

Declamation—"Anonymous."—Anna Hoffman.

Nell Johnson recited a French poem for an encore.

Congressman T. B. Davis went to Washington and took his seat in Congress, Dec. 1.

Mr. H. B. Grant, a former student, was visiting friends in Keyser last week.

They were having oyster soup for dinner.

Hungry student (feeling something with his spoon) —"Bully, boys; I've got an oyster." But when he lifted the "oyster" from his soup he found that it was only the cook's false teeth.

Who said Laura went skating without a belt or collar?

GUESS WHO.

There is a man who is paid
The boys and girls to teach;
But when there is any trouble,
He always begins to preach.
This man is a remarkable person,
Who has gone through trouble and woe,
Of the many adventures that met him,
We'll relate the ones that we know.
He has tripped upon a banana peel.
He has fallen from the Ferris wheel.
He has collided in the ocean.
Been in a dynamite explosion.
Gone down the grade with broken brakes,
Slept in a den of copper snakes.
He went unhurt from a mad-dog bite,
Blew out the gas and slept all-right.
Of other adventures we cannot tell
That to this man perhaps befell.
But today he's teaching in a school
And ruling with an iron rule.

RICHARD ROE.

LOCALS.

"Brownly had been out late the night before and his geometry lesson had suffered. He was called on to demonstrate a certain theorem. He proceeded:

"Given inscribed parallelogram ABCD cut by the secant GK to prove, etc., etc. Since GK is a secant, angle BCO=angle DKO. Then OG"—he hesitates—"OG is—"

Prof.—"No—BO—"

Brownly—"Oh. OB—Oh Gee."

Prof.—"No, you're wrong."

Brownly—"OG, that is, OK—"

Prof.—"No, it is not O. K. But please avoid slang."

Brownly—"Oh Gee, then. O—I mean G— Oh, let's see."

Prof.—"GO has nothing to do with C."

Brownly—"But if a se—"

Prof.—"Nor does AC have anything to do with it."

Brownly—"Well then, GG=Oh Gee! OG—OG—"

Prof.—"U R A Ph—get out!"

The students have been enjoying good skating on Jarboe's pond this month.

Mr. James Price, a former student who is working in Hagerstown, passed through Keyser, Dec. 19th, on his way home for the holidays.

Most of the students have gone home to spend the holidays.

Miss Columbia Menefee, John Hott and Herman Koelz, three of last year's graduates, are home for the holidays from the University.

We have been informed that Prof. Miller will not join the Stereopticon Company, but is to take the cobler's trade. He would like all young ladies, who are bothered by tacks in their shoes while skating, to give him a call.

A Mr. Keener, representing the H. C. White Co., of North Bennington, Vt., was here last month trying to induce some of the students to take up the work of canvassing stereoscopes and stereoscopic views. Homer Hott was his first victim. Mr. Hott's field of work will be in some of the mountainous districts of Pennsylvania, where, as he thinks, he will have no trouble in selling his stereoscopes and views. Homer is very enthusiastic over his contemplated work and has dreams of earning a very large sum of money during his summer vacation. The "Refert" extends its best wishes for Mr. Hott's success in his enterprise.

If idle men would hustle as much to get a job as women do to get a husband, there would be very few idle men in our country.

Prof. Sanders (in Latin I class)—"Joe, what is the third person, singular number, perfect tense of the verb, to manage?"

Joe—"I don't know, Professor."

Prof.—"Guess it."

Joe (puzzled)—"Professor, I don't know what to guess."

Prof. Sanders (in Latin I class)—"How do you decline, Puer?"

One of the class—hesitating—

Prof.—"Very good, so far as you have gone."

One of the class—"Plural same as singular."

Professor Anderson, (applying for position as teacher in the K. P. B.—"Yes, I am a good Latin scholar; I am a good German scholar; I am a good French scholar; I am a good baseball pitcher; I am a good football coach, and a good basket-ball coach; but, of course, there are some things that I cannot do, as for instance—well, really,—I don't think of anything at present."

Someone said that a night school had been established at the "Prep" with an enrollment of two students. We have not yet learned who are the instructors.

J. G. KOELZ

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